(b) if so, what follow up action has been taken by Government to recover Rs. 22.46 lakh along with interest from the Shahdra Consumer Stores; and

(c) whether all the NCCF branches have confirmed compliance of its instructions dated 4-12-1984 not to undertake any business transactions with M/s. Shahdra Consumers Cooperative Store?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) NCCF have reported that none of its branches is doing any businesss transactions with the Shahdra Consumers Cooperative Stores.

Reaction by Agricultural Scientists community against new seed import policy

1221. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
DR. R.K. PODDAR:
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the agricultural Scientists community in the country have shown their dissatisfaction and discontentment with regard to Government's new seed policy;

(b) if so, what is the basic objective envisaged in the new seed policy and what are the areas of controversy with the scientific community;

(c) what efforts have been made by Government to provide with incentives to the private and public sector seed producing units in the country to undertake seed development and multiplication programme as also to identify areas for concentration of research development; and

(d) whether Government propose to review the seed import policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, the basic objective is to facilitate the growth of Indian Seed Industry and enable access to the farmers to the best available seed and planting material available anywhere in the world.

(c) A statement is annexed.(*See* below)

(d) A High Level Review Committee in the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is regularly monitoring the progress of the implementation of the policy and also considers appropriate changes wherever necessary.

Incentives given/being given to domestic Seed Industry to encourage and promote its growth to meet the internal requirements of seeds and also to enable them to bring in latest technology are as under:—

(i) It is proposed to reduced the import duty on machines/equipments used for seed production/processing etc. which are not manufactured in the country;

(ii) The facility of pre-shipment credit for period upto 180 days at 9.5% rate of interest per annum and post-shipment credit at 9.5% rate of interest per annum now available for industry will be applicable to seed sector. also;

(iii) Cash Compensatory Support on the export of seeds will be considered by Ministry of Commerece on the basis of data supplied by Seed Exporting Companies; and

(iv) Tax deductions as per Rules of Income Tax Act will be provided to

Seed Industry on expenditure on in-house research and development to the companies paying Income Tax.

Pilferage of rice and wheat stocks from the F.C.I. godwons in Taran Taran, Punjab

1222. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major racket involved in large pilferage of rice and wheat stocks from the Food Corporation of India godowns in connivance with the officials has been recently unearthed at Taran Taran, District Amritsar (Punjab);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the annual estimated loss suffered by FCI as a result thereof; and

(d) what action has been proposed to be taken by Government against the FCI officials found involved in the racket and what measures are being contemplated to review and to streamline the entire system of receipt and issue of foodgrains from the FCI godowns in the country in order to check pilferage in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) The details as reported by the FCI, are as follows :—

The Punjab Police have registered a case, on 30.1.89, against some labour contractors and transporters of Taran Taran and employees of the FCI, alleging conspiracy and theft/misappropriation of foodgrains from the FCI godowns at Taran Taran. Consequently, nine officials of the FCI have been arrested. Three contractors, three labour palledars, one truck owner and one truck driver have also been arrested.

(c) and (d) Whether or not there is any loss or any officials are to be proceeded against will depend on the allegations of theft being established and on the physical verification of stocks.

The procedures and security arrangements are constantly reviewed and tightened, as and when found necessary.

Action against Regional Manager (West), NCCF, Bombay for his alleged involvement in the embezzlement case

1223. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2704 given in Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the latest progress made in the case;

(b) whether disciplinary action has been taken/proposed to be taken by Government against the officer involved; and

(c) if not, what, are the reasons for delay and by when the position is likely to be made clear?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) NCCF have reported that there is no progress in the petition filed by the Kolhapur Wholesale Coop. Store against the Regional Manager (West) Bombay in the Court of Judicial Magistrate Kolhapur for the alleged irregularities committed by the officer as General Manager in the Store. The Court has neither issued any summons to the Regional Manager(West) nor it has taken up the hearing of the case.

(b) and (c) As the Court has not issued any summons so far, no action can be initiated by the NCCF against Regional Manager(West).